

# IN MEMORY OF BRIT CO-FOUNDER WM. F. "BILL" MAHLER 1930–2013

VALUED DIRECTOR, MENTOR, VISIONARY, EDITOR, TEACHER, BOTANIST, SUPPORTER, FRIEND  
WITH INDEBTEDNESS FOR YOUR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO OUR ORGANIZATION.

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas

WILLIAM FRED MAHLER

"BILL"

30 AUGUST 1930–2 JULY 2013

WILLIAM F. "BILL" MAHLER grew up in Iowa Park, Texas, where he was born August 30, 1930. Upon graduation from W.F. George High School in 1947, he enrolled at Hardin College in Wichita Falls, Texas. After three years he enlisted in the U.S. Army instead of enrolling his last year in college and served from September 1950 to September 1953. After basic and advanced training in Headquarters Co., 8th Inf. Reg., 4th Inf. Div., he volunteered for airborne and ranger training. He served with the 14th Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Carson, Colorado, until they were deactivated in 1951 (Black 1989; Taylor n.d.). In the meantime, the 4th Division had been sent to Friedberg, Germany. He returned to his old company and spent nearly two years in Germany. In 1954, he returned to school and received his B.S. degree in 1955 in Agriculture from Midwestern State University (previously Hardin College)

with a major in Soil and Plant Science and a minor in Animal Husbandry. Mahler and Lorene Lindesmith, from Addington, Oklahoma, met in his home town and were married in 1955.

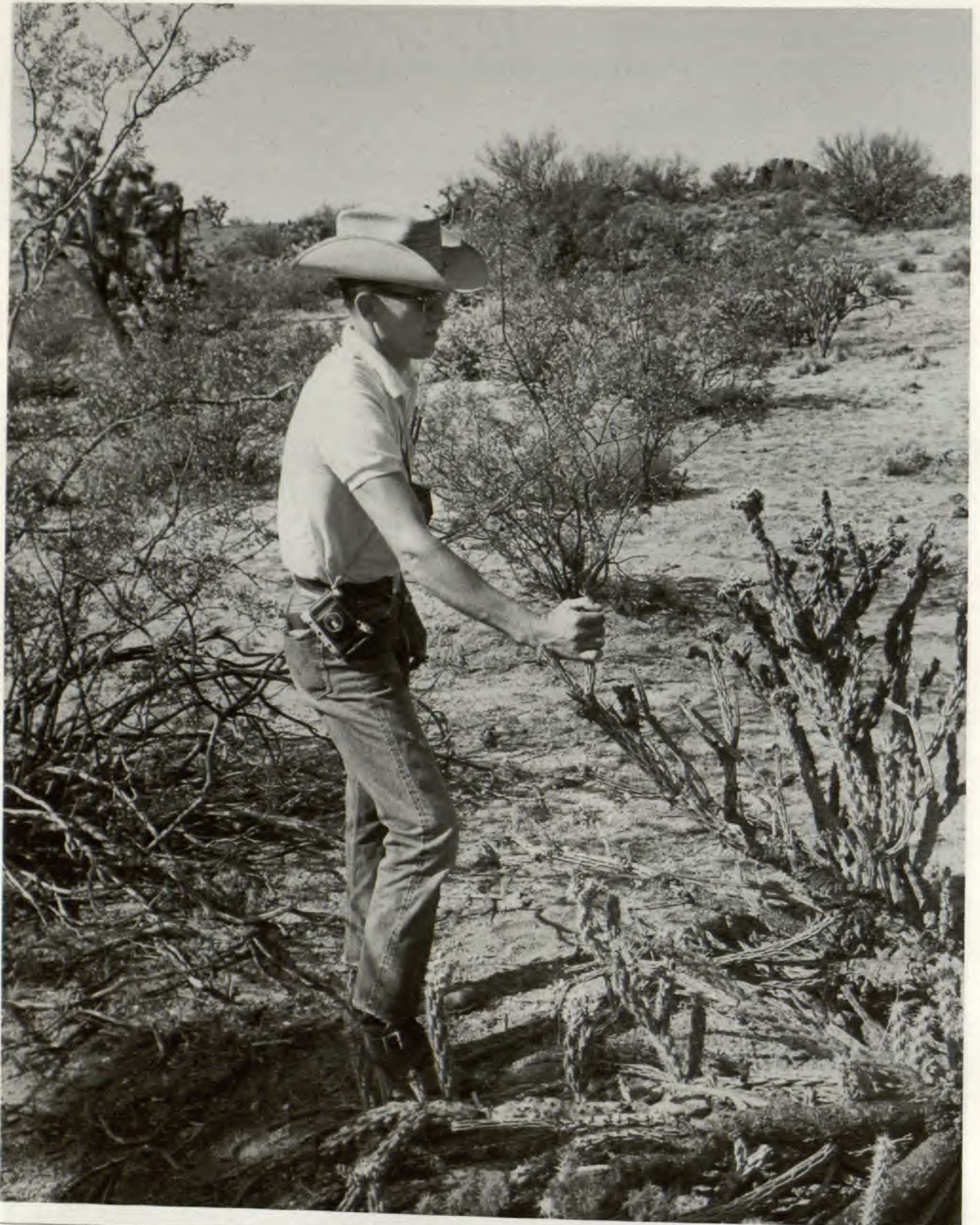
In 1958 he went to Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater to pursue graduate work. Mahler received his M.S. degree in Botany/Plant Taxonomy from OSU in 1960, working under U.T. Waterfall. For the next six years he served as an assistant professor at Hardin-Simmons University (HSU) in Abilene, Texas, teaching botany and establishing the HSU herbarium. Subsequently he continued his graduate studies by attending the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he received a Ph.D. in Botany/Plant Taxonomy in 1968. Upon graduation he joined the faculty of Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, became editor and publisher of *Sida, Contributions to Botany* in 1971 following the death of L.H. Shinnery, and assumed leadership of the SMU herbarium in 1973. Mahler was publisher of *Sida, Botanical Miscellany* after he and Barney Lipscomb founded the journal in 1987. Under his guidance and own collecting, the SMU herbarium grew by 72,000 specimens, eventually reaching about 400,000.



William F. Mahler, ca.1934, approximately 4 years of age. Bill in the back with his brother John in the front.

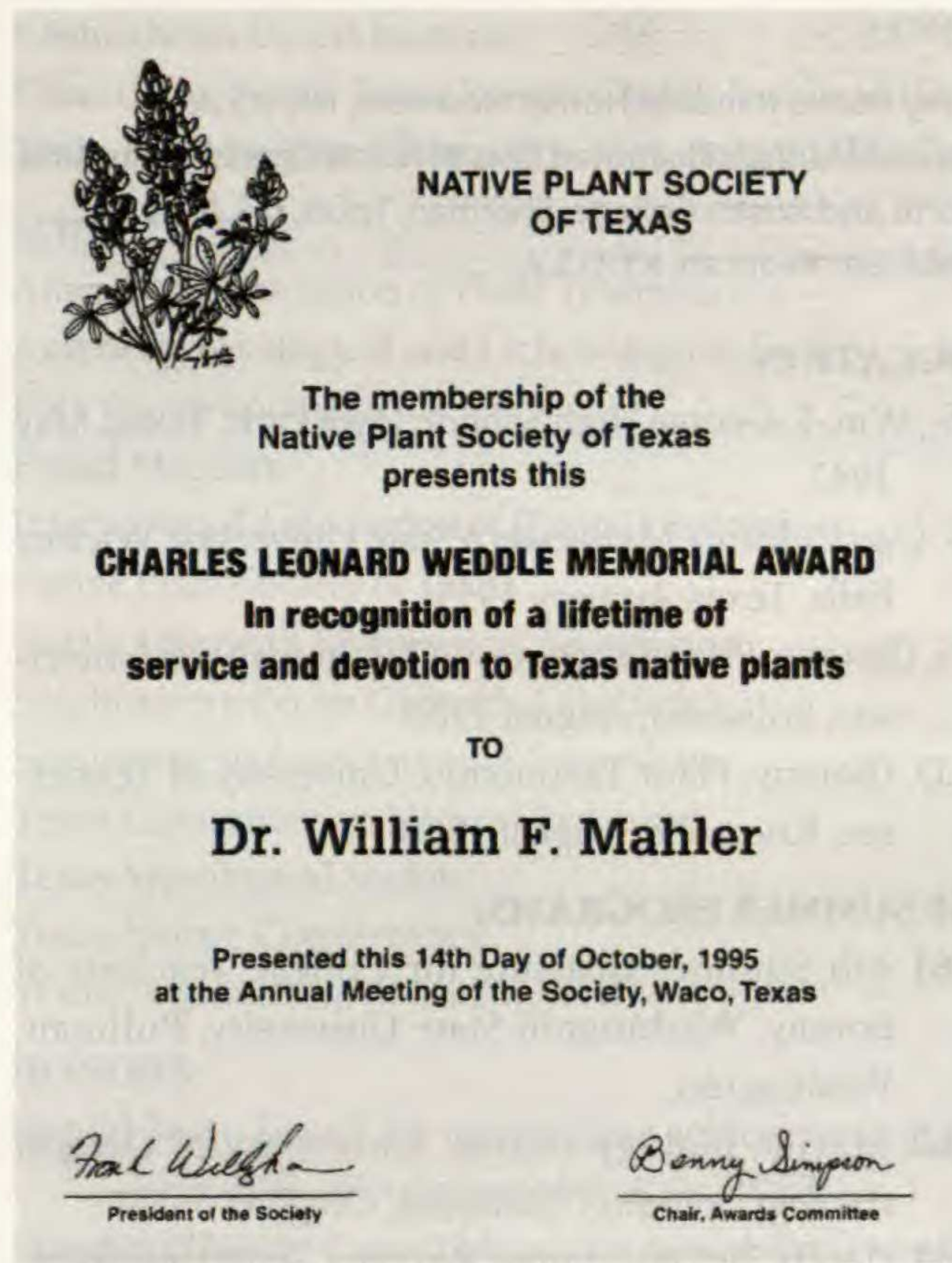


William F. Mahler in uniform 1952. "A studio in Friedberg, Germany, in 1952 had a duplicate in their showcase that was visible from the street. They gave me that copy after a buddy convinced me to go in and ask for it."

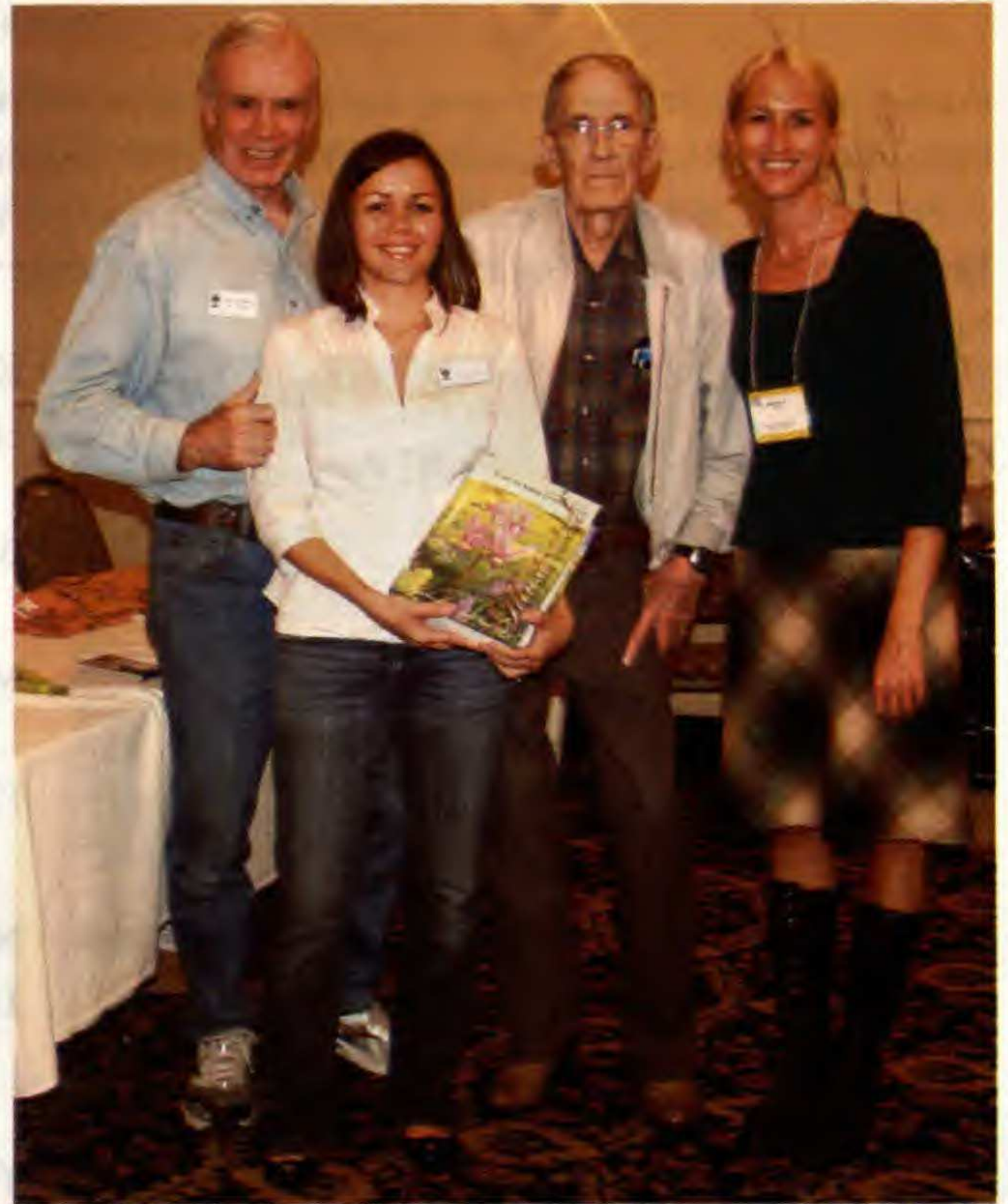


William F. Mahler, June 1963, age 32. Desert Biology Institute, Arizona State University.

Mahler published *Shinners' Manual of the North Central Texas Flora* (1984, 1988), well known for its clarity and ease of use. The manual, which included the summer and fall flora for North Central Texas, was an expanded version of Shinners' (1958) *Spring Flora of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area Texas*. Mahler received the Donovan Stewart Correll Memorial Award in 1991 from the Native Plant Society of Texas for scientific writing on the



Charles Leonard Weddle Memorial Award, Native Plant Society of Texas, 14 Oct 1995.



William F. Mahler, October 2009, with BRIT colleagues at Native Plant Society Texas Annual Meeting (People and Prairies—Partners) in Wichita Falls, Texas. From left to right: Robert J. O'Kennon, Tiana Rehman, Wm. F. Mahler, and Amanda K. Neill.

native flora of Texas. Other notable publications included the *Keys to the Plants of Black Gap Wildlife Management Area, Brewster County, Texas* (1971), *Flora of Taylor County, Texas* (1973), and *The Mosses of Texas* (1980). Mahler's specialties include Fabaceae, *Baccharis* (Asteraceae), mosses, floristics, pollen morphology, and the study of endangered plant species. In 1988, Mahler was the first recipient of the Harold Beaty Award from the Texas Organization of Endangered Species for his work with endangered plant species in Texas. The Native Plant Society of Texas again honored Mahler in 1995 with the Charles Leonard Weddle Memorial Award in recognition of a lifetime of service and devotion to Texas native plants. Mahler also served on the Board of Consultants for the North Texas Poison Center, Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas. He assisted the Poison Center in identifying plants and mushrooms implicated mostly in human poisoning cases.

In 1987 SMU put its herbarium on permanent loan to a newly created organization, The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). Mahler received early retirement from SMU (Associate Professor *Emeritus*) and served as the first Director of BRIT (1987–1992). Along with Andrea McFadden and long-time associate Barney Lipscomb, they were instrumental in its establishment as a free-standing research institution.

In 1993, S.H. Sohmer assumed directorship of BRIT, and Bill served as Director *Emeritus* (1993–2013). After retiring, he returned with his loving wife to his childhood home of Iowa Park, Texas, where he enjoyed and shared life experiences with his many friends, family, and grandchildren. He was a native Iowa Parkan and proud of his home town. There he kept his fingers in botany, attended many BRIT functions in Fort Worth (often with Iowa Park friends, introducing them to BRIT), and worked tirelessly on the genealogy of the Mahler family. The taxonomist in him never retired. On July 2, 2013, Bill retired to his final resting place adjacent to his father, mother, and brother in Highland Cemetery, Iowa Park, Texas.

## REFERENCES

- BLACK, R.W. 1989. Rangers in Korea. Roster of 14th Co., P. 318. Ivy Books, Random House, New York, NY, U.S.A.
- DIGGS, G.M., JR., B.L. LIPSCOMB, and R.J. O'KENNON. 1999. Shinners and Mahler's illustrated flora of North Central Texas. Sida, Bot. Misc. 16. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth and Austin College, Sherman, Texas, U.S.A.
- TAYLOR, T.H. n.d. Rangers lead the way. Roster, P. 153. Turner Publ. Co., Paducah, KY, U.S.A.



William F. Mahler, 1987, in the SMU Herbarium. Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

**EDUCATION:**

- H.S., Wm. F. George High School, Iowa Park, Texas, May 1947
- B.S. (Agriculture), Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas, January 1955
- M.S. (Botany, Plant Taxonomy), Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, August 1960
- Ph.D. (Botany, Plant Taxonomy), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, August 1968

**NSF SUMMER PROGRAMS:**

- 1961** 4th Summer Institute for College Teachers of Botany, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.
- 1962** Marine Biology course, University of Oregon (Biology Station, Charleston, Oregon).
- 1963** Desert Biology course, Arizona State University, Tempe.
- 1965, 1966** Research Participation Program for College Teachers, Iowa State University, Ames.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS:**

- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Botany Department, Oklahoma State University, 1958–1960.
- Assistant in Agricultural Biology (Research), Department of Agricultural Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1966–1968.

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS:**

- Hardin Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; Assistant Professor, 1960–1966.
- Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas; Curator, SMU Herbarium 1971–1987; Assistant Professor, 1968–1974; Associate Professor, 1974–1987.

**SUMMER TEACHING POSITIONS:**

- Black Gap Wildlife Management Area, Brewster County, Texas: SMU and Dallas Museum of Natural History, SMU Field Biology Course, 1969–1971.
- Fort Burgwin Research Center, Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico: SMU Departmental Courses, 1974–1977, 1979.

**NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS:**

- Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth; Director 1987–1993; Director *Emeritus*, 1993–2013.

**MILITARY EXPERIENCE:**

- U.S. Army, 1950–1953 (14th Airborne Ranger Infantry Company, 4th Infantry Division), U.S.A. and Germany.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Adjunct Curator, Dallas Museum of Natural History
- Board of Directors, Natural Area Preservation Association
- Botanical Research Institute of Texas

Chihuahuan Desert Institute  
Consultant, North Texas Poison Center, Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas  
Texas Plant Recovery Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**SOCIETIES:**

American Association of Plant Taxonomists  
American Bryological and Lichenological Society  
Fort Worth Botanical Society  
Heard Museum  
International Association of Plant Taxonomists  
Native Plant Society of Texas  
North American Mycological Association  
Southeastern Pecan Growers Association  
Southwestern Association of Naturalists  
Texas Committee on Natural Resources  
Texas Mycological Society  
Texas Nature Conservancy  
Texas Organization of Endangered Species

**HONORS:**

Harold Beaty Award: for outstanding achievement in Endangered Plant Conservation, 1st recipient, Texas Organization of Endangered Species, 1988.  
Donovan Stewart Correll Memorial Award: for scientific writing on the native flora of Texas, Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville, TX, 1991.  
Charles Leonard Weddle Memorial Award: in recognition of a lifetime of service and devotion to Texas native plants, Native Plant Society of Texas, Waco, TX, 1995.

**STUDY LEAVE (SABBATICAL):**

Fall 1976, Mosses of Texas  
Fall 1986, Mycological protocol for North Texas Poison Center, Parkland Hospital

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**Books and Manuals:**

- 1964** General Botany Laboratory Manual. By author. 51 pp.  
**1966** Keys to the Embryophyta of Taylor County, Texas. Hardin-Simmons University Bookstore, Abilene, Texas, 86 pp.  
**1971** Keys to the Vascular Plants of the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area, Brewster County, Texas. SMU Bookstore, Dallas, Texas. Third revision, 109 pp.  
**1972** Shinnery's Spring Flora of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, Texas. Editor, 2nd edition. Prestige Press, Fort Worth, Texas, 514 pp. (Class use: Tarleton State University, Tyler Junior College).  
**1972** Keys to the Mosses of Texas. Biology Department, SMU (for class use), 43 pp.  
**1973** Flora of Taylor County, Texas: A Manual of the Vascular Plants with Selected Sketches. Published by the author, SMU Bookstore, Dallas, Texas, 247 pp.  
**1975** Keys to the Bryophytes of Texas. SMU Herbarium, Dallas, Texas, 64 pp. (Class use: SMU, Texas A&M University, Angelo State University).  
**1980** The Mosses of Texas: A manual of the moss flora with sketches. Published by the author, Dallas, Texas, 147 pp. (Class use: Texas A&M University, Angelo State University).  
**1984** Shinnery's Manual of the North Central Texas Flora, SMU Herbarium, Dallas, Texas, 360 pp. (Class use: Austin College, Sherman; Baylor University; Fort Worth Botanical Garden; Fort Worth Nature Center; Greenhills Environmental Center; Southeastern Oklahoma State University; University of Texas-Arlington).

1988 Shinnery's Manual of the North Central Texas Flora. Sida, Bot. Misc. 3:1–313. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Dallas.

#### Articles:

- Ikenberry, G.J., C.D. Bird, and W.F. Mahler. 1960. The mosses of Payne County, Oklahoma. Bryologist 63:112–113.
- Mahler, W.F. and U.T. Waterfall. 1964. *Baccharis* (Compositae) in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. Southw. Naturalist 9:189–202.
- Mahler, W.F. 1965. The pollen morphology of the tribe Psoraleae (Leguminosae). NSF Research Participation Report. 24 pp. Unpublished copy at New York Botanical Garden. Cited by Barneby, R.C. 1977. *Dalea* Imagines. Mem. New York Bota. Gard. 27:1–891.
- Mahler, W.F. 1966. The pollen morphology of the subfamily Papilionoideae (Leguminosae). NSF Research Participation Report. 21 pp. Unpublished copy at New York Botanical Garden.
- Mahler, W.F. 1969. Pollen morphology of *Desmodium* (Leguminosae) in the United States. XI International Botanical Congress, Seattle, Washington. Abstract, p. 138.
- Mahler, W.F. 1970. Manual of the legumes of Tennessee. Tennessee Acad. Sci. 45(3):69–96.
- Mahler, W.F. 1970. Pollen morphology of *Dalea mollis* – *D. neomexicana* complex (Leguminosae). Southw. Naturalist 15:187–191.
- Mahler, W.F. 1971. Lloyd Herbert Shinnery 1918–1971. Sida 4:228–231.
- Mahler, W.F. 1973. By any other name... Sida 5:180–181.
- Mahler, W.F. 1973. Book review: The Agavaceae of Sonora by H.S. Gentry. Econ. Bot. 27:156.
- Mahler, W.F. 1974. *Gnaphalium helleri* Britton (Compositae – Inuleae) in the Texas flora. Southw. Naturalist 19:329.
- Mahler, W.F. 1975. The distribution of *Pyropappus rothrockii* Gray (Compositae – Cichorieae) in Texas. Southw. Naturalist 20:139.
- Mahler, W.F. 1975. Typification and distribution of the varieties of *Gnaphalium helleri* Britton (Compositae – Inuleae). Sida 6:30–32.
- Mahler, W.F. 1976. Book review: The grasses of Texas by F.W. Gould. Southw. Rev. Spring: 220–222.
- Mahler, W.F. 1976. Pollen morphology of *Dalea* section *Theodora* (Leguminosae – Psoraleae). Sida 6:328–331.
- Mahler, W.F. 1977. Featured Institution – Southern Methodist University. Assoc. Syst. Coll. Newsl. 5(4):41–42.
- Mahler, W.F. 1978. Preliminary checklist of New Mexico mosses. Bryologist 81:593–599.
- Mahler, W.F. 1979. Range extension of *Brazoria pulcherrima* Lundell (Lamiaceae). Sida 8:211.
- Mahler, W.F. 1979. *Rubus trivialis* Michx. var. *duplaris* (Shinnery) Mahler, comb. nov. (Rosaceae). Sida 8:211–212.
- Mahler, B.D. and W.F. Mahler. 1980. Checklist of mosses of Oklahoma. Bryologist 83:202–208.
- Mahler, W.F. 1981. Notes on rare Texas and Oklahoma plants. Sida 9:76–86.
- Mahler, W.F. 1981. Field studies on Texas endemics. Sida 9:176–186.
- Mahler, W.F. and B.L. Lipscomb. 1981. Review: A synonymized checklist of the vascular flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland. Vol. 2. The Biota of North America. Sida 9:191–192.
- Olwell, M. and W.F. Mahler. 1982. A populational study of the exomorphic variations in *Vicia minutiflora* Dietr., including *V. reverchonii* Wats. (Leguminosae). Sida 9:215–222.
- Mahler, W.F. 1983. Review: The grasses of Baja California, Mexico by F.W. Gould and R. Moran. Sida 10:92–93.
- Mahler, W.F. 1983. Rediscovery of *Hymenoxys texana* and notes on two other Texas endemics. Sida 10:89–92.
- Mahler, W.F. 1983. The role of plant succession in the extinction of plant species. Sida 10:191.
- Beatty, H.E. and W.F. Mahler. 1983. TOES endangered, threatened, and watch list of plants of Texas. Texas Organization of Endangered Species. Publ. 3, 1st rev. 7 pp.
- Mahler, W.F. 1984. Shinnery's manual of the North Central Texas flora. Southern Methodist Univ. Herbarium, Dallas, TX, U.S.A.

- Mahler, W.F. 1985. Review: Methods in plant virology by S.A. Hill. In: Methods in Plant Pathology 1, 1984. Sida 11:105.
- Mahler, W.F. 1985. Review: Introduction to modern mycology by J.W. Deacon. In: Basic Microbiology Ser. Vol.7, 1984. Sida 11:106.
- Mahler, W.F. 1985. Additions to the moss flora of New Mexico. *Evansia* 2(2):30–31.
- Coats, C. and W.F. Mahler. 1985. *Barbula whitehouseae* Crum, new to Oklahoma and distribution notes. *Southw. Naturalist* 30:151–152.
- Mahler, W.F. 1986. Review: A field guide to southwestern and Texas wildflowers. *Quart. Rev. Biol.* 61:107–108.
- Mahler, W.F. 1986. Review: Plant diseases: Infection, damage and loss by R.K.S. Wood and G.J. Jellis eds. 1984. Sida 11:353–354.
- Mahler, W.F. 1986. Review: The vascular plants of South Dakota, second edition by T. VanBruggen, 1985. Sida 11:354–355.
- Grauke, L.J., J.W. Pratt, W.F. Mahler, and A.D. Ajayi. 1986. Proposal to conserve the name of pecan as *Carya illinoensis* (Wang.) K. Koch and reject the orthographic variant *Carya illinoensis* (Wang.) K. Koch (Juglandaceae). *Taxon* 35:174–177.
- Beatty, H.E. and W.F. Mahler. 1987. Endangered, threatened, and watch list of plants in Texas. Texas Organization of Endangered Species. Publ. 3, 2nd rev. 11 pp.
- Mahler, W.F. 1987. *Leavenworthia texana* (Brassicaceae), a new species from Texas. Sida 12:239–242.
- Mahler, W.F. 1987. New combination and notes on the North Central Texas flora. Sida 12:250–251.
- Mahler, W.F. 1988. Shinnery's manual of the North Central Texas flora. Sida, Bot. Misc. 3:1–313.
- Mahler, W.F. 1988. *Amorpha roemeriana* Scheele (Fabaceae), an upland species. Sida 13:121.
- Mahler, W.F. 1988. Dr. Russell Lee Kologiski. Sida 13:170.
- Mahler, W.F. 1989. *Agrimonia incisa* (Rosaceae) new to Texas. Sida 13:383.
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- Bastien, J.W., W.F. Mahler, M.G. Reinecke, Y. Shu, W.E. Robinson, Jr., L. Horton, and J. Zalles-Asin. 1991. A virgin pharmacopeia: Bolivian-Kallawayan medicinal plants as sources of anti-HIV compounds. Abstracts of the International Congress of Natural Products 32, Abstract P-3.
- Abdel-Malek, S., J.W. Bastien, W.F. Mahler, M.G. Reinecke, W.E. Robinson, Jr., and J. Zalles-Asin. 1994. Phytochemical studies of Kallawaya medicinal plants potential anti-HIV Drugs. Abstracts Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society 50, Abstract No. 165.
- Abdel-Malek, S., J.W. Bastien, W.F. Mahler, Qi Jia, M.G. Reinecke, W.E. Robinson, Jr., Yong-hua Shu, and J. Zalles-Asin. 1996. Drug leads from the Kallawaya herbalists of Bolivia. 1. Background, rationale, protocol and anti-HIV activity. *J. Ethnopharmacology* 50:157–166.

#### NEW TAXA AND NEW COMBINATIONS

- Asteraceae *Gnaphalium helleri* Britton var. *micradenium* (Weath.) Mahler—Sida 6(1):32. 1975.
- Rosaceae *Rubus trivialis* Michx. var. *duplaris* (Shinnery) Mahler—Sida 8(1): 211. 1979.
- Brassicaceae *Leavenworthia texana* Mahler—Sida 12(1):239. 1987.
- Fabaceae *Pediomelum hypogaeum* Rydb. var. *scaposum* (A. Gray) Mahler—Sida 12(1): 250. 1987 (IK)
- Fabaceae *Pediomelum latestipulatum* (Shinnery) Mahler—Sida 12(1): 250. 1987.

#### GRADUATE STUDENTS – M.S.

- Olwell, Margaret. 1983. Geobotanical study of *Penstemon cyanocaulis* Payson in Lisbon Valley, Utah. Thesis. December.
- Ajayi, Anthonia. 1986. Phaseoleae (Leguminosae) of Oklahoma. Thesis. May.

9058	<i>Argythamnia argyrea</i> Gray ♀
3)	Roadside adjacent to scrub pasture; La Salle Co., TX 8.3 mi S of Los Angela, 19 Apr 1981
9059	<i>Valerianella</i>
3)	Common along base of cliffs at roadside, Bexar Co., TX, N of Hwy 1604 on Hwy 281. 19 Apr 1981
9060	
9061	
9062	<i>Coronilla varia</i> L.
9063	
9064	<i>Crotalaria erue-galli</i> L.
3) 9065	<i>Gaura triangulata</i> Buckl.
3) 9066	<i>Coronilla varia</i> L.
	Sandy soil, roadside and adjacent oak woodland, Mustang County, TX jet of Hwy 287 of E1, S of Bowie, 24 Apr 1981 B.L. Lipscomb
9067	<i>Valerianella</i>
	Roadside of prairie; Clay County, TX N side of Hwy 287 between RR tracks, Bellevue. 24 Apr 1981 B.L. Lipscomb
9068	
9069	
9070	
9071	
9072	
9073	
9074	<i>Crotalaria erue-galli</i> L.
2) 9075	<i>Crotalaria erue-galli</i> L.
	Granitic outcrop; burned-over area of slope; Kiowa Co., Okla. N side of Quartz Mts on S side of base #17us. 25 Apr 1981 B.L. Lipscomb

Mahler Field Notebook (8706-9391, Oct 1979-May 1982) showing collection numbers 9066-9075 (April 1981) with B.L. Lipscomb.

## FIELD WORK, COLLECTIONS, AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

### Mahler 10,201 on 26 July 1990

Primary areas of collecting: Canada (Alberta with Dr. C.D. Bird); Mexico (by way of Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts with Dr. John W. Thieret), U.S.A. (California, Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas)

## PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

The systematic botany journal, *Sida, Contributions to Botany*, was privately published by Wm. F. Mahler in conjunction with the SMU Herbarium and Library since the death of L.H. Shinnors, who founded the journal in 1962. Editor from 1971-1982; publisher from 1971-1993.

The monographic journal, *Sida, Botanical Miscellany* was co-founded in 1987 with Barney Lipscomb and published by Wm. Mahler in conjunction with BRIT.

## GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (TO SMU):

1970-1971	SMU Anthropology	\$500
1972	SMU Anthropology	\$6,000
1979-1982	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$11,200

## REPORTS - GRANTS AND CONTRACTS:

Mahler, Wm. F. 1971. Botanical literature survey of the Trinity River Basin. Chapter 2, pp. 35-56. In: J.V. Sciscenti, Environmental and cultural resources within the middle Trinity Basin, Tennessee Colony Reservoir south to Lake Livingston, Int. Rep. Corps of Engineers.

Mahler, Wm. F. 1972. Botanical literature survey of the Trinity River. Chapter 2, pp. 58-129. In: J.V. Sciscenti, Environmental and cultural resources within the middle Trinity Basin, Report to Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth, Texas

Mahler, Wm. F. 1972. Botanical survey of the Lake Monticello area. SMU Contr. Anthropol. 9.1. 25 pp.



Mahler at the microscope identifying plants at 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, Texas. Fort Worth Magazine 68(3), 1992.



PERSONAL TRIBUTES TO  
WILLIAM F. MAHLER

Bill Mahler was a new faculty member when I arrived on the SMU campus in 1968. His appearance in faculty meetings was always an occasion to visit with a valuable member of the faculty who was not located in Fondren Science building but in the basement of the Science & Engineering Library. I recall a joint field trip to the Big Bend region of Texas with Bill and several staff members of the Dallas Museum of Natural History, and we were all taken back by Bill's great knowledge of the plants there. We had no idea he was writing a monograph on them. Bill was always a friendly person, eager to share his knowledge of plants.

—John Ubelaker, *Biology Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas*

*Remembrance for Dr. M.*—Dr. Mahler was my graduate adviser at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, over 35 years ago. I met Dr. Mahler in 1977 when I had just moved to Dallas after getting my undergraduate degree in Botany at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. I wanted to talk with him about the graduate program in Botany at SMU. He suggested that I wait one year before coming to graduate school because SMU was hiring 2 more professors with botanical/ecological expertise, and he thought there would be a more well-rounded program for me. As usual, he always thought about what was best for the student. He was absolutely correct, I waited one year and started my classes in 1978 with Dr. Mahler as my graduate adviser. He taught me much about plants, mosses and lichens, pollen, etc., but the thing he taught best was humility. He guided you gently, he listened intently (while squatting), and he never made you feel as though any question you asked was dumb, even if it was! He opened many doors for me professionally, and I am forever grateful. I am sure that the successes I have had as a botanist throughout my career are because of his unwavering belief in my abilities and me.

Dr. Mahler loved plants, especially the flora of North Texas! He understood at a very deep level how important plants are for people, how important the SMU Herbarium was for botanical science, and how important it was to teach people about plants and their significance for humanity. The Botanical Research Institute of Texas is his legacy! I think Texas has lost a true Texan. He was, without a doubt, the best major professor a student could have! He was a gifted scholar, a remarkable teacher, and most of all a truly wonderful human being. It is with great fondness that I remember the venerable Dr. Mahler from Iowa Park. Dr. Mahler, you were my favorite professor of all time and you will be sorely missed!

—Peggy Olwell, *Washington, DC*

*William F. Mahler.*—Dedicated educator, passionate, wonderfully sweet man, Dr. Mahler opened up a whole botanical world to his students which we never considered. After taking an elective class in Botany, Dr. Mahler introduced me to the world of mosses and fungi. We traveled all over north Texas and Oklahoma in search of mosses. He worked tirelessly to preserve the SMU Herbarium collection for generations of students. I was one of those many fortunate students blessed by his knowledge and passion for the plant life we studied.

The plant world knows Dr. Mahler as a taxonomist and botanist who was passionate about Texas flora, the SMU Herbarium, and BRIT. But Dr. Mahler was more than an outstanding botanist. He was a good friend, mentor, and surrogate dad. He always had time for his students, and unlike many professors who maintain an academic aloofness from their students, Dr. Mahler was a warm and caring friend who was concerned about his students' welfare not only in the classroom but also outside of the classroom. Dr. Mahler was a man of tremendous character, singularly committed to his work, his family, the Herbarium, and to his home town of Iowa Park. I fondly remember Dr. Mahler quietly encouraging and always positive with pipe in hand. He was the epitome of integrity, honesty, and curiosity.

Someone once wrote, "A friend should be one in whose understanding and virtue we can equally confide, and whose opinion we can value at once for its justness and its sincerity." Dr. Mahler was just such a friend. I greatly valued his suggestions as he provided me invaluable advice particularly when I was making a career choice. Although I did not pursue a flora-related career, he supported me as I chose a law career. I, like many of his

students, will be forever indebted to him for his kindness, wisdom, and generosity in sharing his friendship with us. His impact is far reaching. We are all better people for our encounter with this wonderful and generous man.

—Catherine Coats, Dallas

William F. Mahler.—I was saddened when I received a call from Barney Lipscomb saying that Dr. Mahler had died. I enjoyed working with Bill and his group to organize the Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth. He was such a kind and dedicated person.

When I think of the Greatest Generation, I think of Bill. God bless you, Dr. Wm. F. Mahler

—David Nivens, Fort Worth

William F. Mahler.—Red-green color-blindness precluded my learning much of Dr. Mahler's vast botanical knowledge, but, as BRIT's chairman during the SMU Herbarium's hunt for suitable quarters in Fort Worth, I was privileged to work with him and want to record a little-known aspect of his crucial role in BRIT's ultimately successful realization of its eco-environmental mission. One month, when funds were temporarily delayed, Bill, who particularly seemed to regard the directors' search effort with wise patience, loaned BRIT the money to assure continued operation. So fortunate that Andrea McFadden got Barney Lipscomb, Bill, Ed Bass, and me together last year [2012] to see BRIT's magnificent new facility and recall its earliest days.

—Lindsay Holland, Midland, Texas

A Tribute to Dr. William F. Mahler.—When I first met Bill Mahler (Dr. M), I was a non-traditional, middle-aged student and he was my botany professor and academic adviser. He was perfect for the job—smart, kind, funny, and patient. Then something happened and the Herbarium collections at Southern Methodist University were placed at risk. So he stepped perfectly into a new role—the stubborn Texan who just would not give up on the SMU Herbarium and Library, a man of courage, persistence, political savvy, and idealism. With steady insistence that the answer to save the Lloyd H. Shinnery Collections in Systematic Botany would appear, he recruited a circle of three to the push the cause that later became the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). With him at the lead, the collections he loved became the foundational holdings of a growing institution where they could safely serve generations going forward. It was an amazing and wonderful accomplishment by an amazing and wonderful man. On behalf of all of us who love and care for the natural world, I raise a warm and loving tribute to Dr. M. Thank you!

—Andrea McFadden, Seattle, Washington

Dr. William F. Mahler, the SMU Botanist.—I arrived in Texas in late 1972 after accepting a position as pilot for American Airlines. One reason I chose Dallas-Fort Worth was to fly my favorite fighter jet at a U.S. Marine Corps squadron based at the Naval Air Station in Grand Prairie.

Being a lifelong naturalist, I was overcome with the diversity in the Texas flora. I travelled all over Texas in my spare time and collected plants. I was told that the place to have them identified was the herbarium at Southern Methodist University. On my first trip there, I met Bill Mahler. He was able to identify all of my collections. He was curious where I had found these plants since they were considered rare or uncommon. He encouraged me to continue searching for interesting species. Because of Bill's encouragement, I spent more of my time travelling to new places observing the flora and fauna and brought plants for him to identify every few weeks for several years.

Bill invited me to join him in the field on occasion, and I learned much from him. He showed me many new areas and new plant communities. In 1984, we searched for the rare or endangered *Dalea reverchonii*. We found three new sites for the species in Parker and Wise counties. Later, he visited me at my ranch near Fredericksburg in the Hill Country of Texas. He was in search of another rare species, *Amorpha texana* Buckley, now known as *A. roemeriana* Scheele. While searching for days in several counties along creek banks where it was thought to be found, we climbed out of a steep canyon to head home. Bill climbed out ahead of me. As he was near the top of the high creek bank, he grabbed a shrub to pull himself up. It was the *Amorpha* that he had

grabbed. We now knew that the plant did not grow so close to the creek banks as did *Amorpha fruticosa*, but high on the banks above the creeks. Knowing this, we eventually found two more sites.

I worked with Bill and Barney Lipscomb at SMU until the new Botanical Research Institute of Texas was formed in 1987. When we moved to the new location in Fort Worth in 1991, Bill and I supervised the move of the herbarium cases and library books from the herbarium at SMU, and Barney and Andrea supervised the unloading of the trucks at the new building in Fort Worth. Bill stayed on at BRIT for a number of years until retiring.

Bill Mahler was an incredible individual, very intelligent, focused, professional, the consummate gentleman, and admired friend to all. I will never forget the time I spent with him.

—Robert J. O’Kennon, Fort Worth

*Bill Mahler: A Man to Remember!*—One of the reasons I hate getting older is losing friends and people I have known. Bill Mahler was one of those people I hated losing, although I had not seen much of him in the couple or three years before he passed. My lasting impression of Bill will always be when I came to BRIT for the first time in 1992 to interview for the director’s position that Bill was stepping down from. I found Bill, Barney Lipscomb, and a couple of other people in a 10,000-square-foot warehouse in what was then “outer Siberia” of downtown Fort Worth. He was a solid, tough guy, with a curmudgeonly and stubborn streak in him, but someone who knew who he was. There are not many people who can qualify as an Army Ranger, but he was one of those. He always seemed to have a cigarette dangling from his lips and used “F.Y.I.” (“For Your Information”) a lot. Since I also smoked in those days (but gave it up after accepting the director’s position of BRIT), he and I would occasionally hang out on the second floor outside stairwell sharing a smoke. What was also startling was that when I saw him at BRIT, I realized that this was the same person I had met when I started graduate work at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville: he was leaving with a fresh Ph.D. and had been an older student having gone back to school after doing his time in Korea. I am certain that the second floor outside stairwell on Pecan Street in downtown Fort Worth, in BRIT’s original building, will always have Bill’s spirit there that will last much longer than the cigarette butts left behind during his time in that building. Farewell to you, good friend. I will always remember you fondly, and from all of us at BRIT, thank you!

—S.H. Sohmer, President, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth

*Bill Mahler Leaves a Great Legacy.*—Bill helped us create a truly significant and lasting institution. We could not have done what we did with our other board colleagues if it weren’t for him. Just think of what a big move it was for Bill to go from tenure at SMU to a warehouse in downtown Fort Worth under the auspices of a bunch of neophytes! He leaves a great legacy [Botanical Research Institute of Texas].

—Ed Bass, Fort Worth

*Dr. William F. Mahler: My Friend and Colleague*—

### **1975–1981 (The Formative Years of My Career)**

Mr. Robert Ziegler and Dr. Mickey Cooper were professors at Cameron University, in Lawton, Oklahoma, who stimulated my interest in botany and, more specifically, taxonomy of aquatic plants, under Dr. Cooper. In 1973 I was accepted into graduate school in the botany department at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Once on campus, I met Dr. Edwin B. Smith, the taxonomist and discovered the herbarium. In the spring of 1975, I was finishing my master’s thesis and was on my way to becoming a botanist. After graduation, I wondered where I would get a job or what path I would follow. Under the direction of my adviser at the University of Arkansas, Dr. Edwin B. Smith, I conducted a floristic survey of the aquatic plants of North Central Arkansas. One of the last things to finish with my thesis was to visit the herbarium at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Since SMU had the Delzie Demaree Herbarium, an extensive collection of Arkansas plants, studying the Demaree collections was essential for any serious floristic and distributional research on Arkansas plants. Upon arrival at SMU, I met the herbarium botanist, Mr. Jerry Flook, and the director of the herbarium, Dr. William F. Mahler. During the course of my work in the herbarium, I learned about Jerry’s imminent departure

from the herbarium for another job. The position of herbarium botanist at SMU would soon be open for applications, and Dr. Mahler invited me to apply. I submitted an application and, lo and behold, on August 20, 1975, I launched my botanical and herbarium botanist career at SMU with some hesitation and trepidation. Dallas, once surrounded by cotton fields, was a big city that seemed far away from the rolling red plains of southwestern Oklahoma, where I was born and raised on a cotton farm near Temple, Oklahoma. I might have felt at home in Dallas a century earlier when it was the world center for the cotton trade, but cotton was in the past in Dallas in 1975. I needed support and guidance in a city of 850,000-plus people. Dr. Mahler was a new boss, but, more important, he was a link to a familiar way of rural life. Dr. Mahler was born and raised in Iowa Park, Texas, a small rural community some 35 miles southwest of Temple, Oklahoma, my birthplace. Bill owned a farm in Oklahoma about 15 minutes as the crow flies from where I grew up—all comforting to a country boy in a big city like Dallas. Dr. Mahler gave me confidence that Dallas would be good for me. So, I lifted my head high, and a lifelong friendship and professional relationship began with Dr. Mahler. I always called him Dr. Mahler until much later in life, when, years after retirement, I simply called him Bill. After all, working side by side in the SMU herbarium and sometimes in the classroom, taking field trips together, attending meetings, enjoying lunch and coffee almost every day, identifying plants together, and simply working with each other for almost 38 years, we were more than colleagues, we were close friends. His family became my family, and in more senses than one, I was a sibling of the Mahler family. I enjoyed everything from dinners at the Mahler home to watching *Monday Night Football* with them. Bill became my botanical mentor, field companion, and a confidant up to his death. The family's home was my home, and after I went through a divorce in 1976, Bill and his sweet wonderful wife, Lorene, along with my own family, were my life support. My life turned out for the better because of Dr. William F. Mahler.

Bill was hired at SMU in 1968 as a three-quarter-time professor in the biology department, located in the Fondren Science Building, and as a one-quarter-time employee of the herbarium, located in the basement of the Science and Engineering Library. Lloyd H. Shinnery (1918–1971) was director of the herbarium, and Bill assumed the directorship after Lloyd's death. Fondren Science and the science library were on the north side of the campus, with only a parking lot separating them. Not long after my arrival at SMU, Bill sometimes invited me to assist him with his taxonomy classes, in Fondren, and with labs, usually in the herbarium. The classroom and laboratory interaction with Bill, which was over and beyond my herbarium duties, slowly gave me confidence and a sense of place and purpose. After teaching class in Fondren Science, Bill would return to the herbarium, which he used as his official office. When Bill was away from the herbarium, my life in the basement was often quite isolated from the academic world above ground. Bill was my connection to the academic life at SMU. My daily herbarium activities were regularly interrupted by science library staff looking for herbarium books and journals being requested through interlibrary loan or by the occasional visiting scientist; Delzie Demaree in those early years was a regular visitor. Otherwise, my routine as a herbarium botanist involved a diversity of duties that included processing loans and exchanges, filing Gray Herbarium Index cards, processing and mounting plant specimens, filing specimens, identifying specimens, selecting botanical books for purchase by the library, shelving new books and journals, and overseeing work-study students. Every day, at least during the school year, Bill and I would sit at a table in the herbarium basement and have our lunch, at the very same place where Lloyd Shinnery used to sit and sort plants. We discussed everything from Shinnery to botanical topics to SMU politics to local and national news. Bill was my advocate at SMU, always looking out for me and trying to improve the quality of my life. My starting salary in 1975 was \$7,500 and after six months, I got a hefty \$500 raise.

After 12 months or so doing herbarium work, Bill introduced me to the publishing world of botany. In 1976, *Sida, Contributions to Botany*, the journal Bill had inherited from Shinnery, its founder and private publisher, was a 15-year-old taxonomic journal. After Shinnery died, it was uncertain whether the journal would survive, but indeed it lives today in print and digital formats around the world because of several people, including John W. Thieret, but primarily because of the dedication and perseverance of Bill Mahler. In 1976, the journal was in its sixth volume, and in its early days a volume had multiple issues, sometimes as many as seven.

Sometimes a volume covered multiple years until it reached the desired number of pages. Later, a volume consisted of four issues with two issues per year, and today (as *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*), two issues per year make a single volume. Bill was determined to keep the journal alive and privately published *Sida* until 1993, when he gave the copyright to the Botanical Research Institute of Texas upon his retirement as director of BRIT. (*Sida* was renamed in 2007.)

Bill invited me to look over his shoulder and learn about reviewing articles and the copyediting process. Today's copyediting, as well as all other phases of publication, are very different from the processes of 1977. I became an apprentice editor at a time when manuscripts were still typed on 8½ × 11 paper and submitted through the postal service (all mail was snail mail). This was truly a time when double-spacing and one-inch margins were critical. Because editing was done in pen, the extra room was essential. When a manuscript was received, it was processed immediately and sent out for review. Based on the review, authors revised and resubmitted their manuscript. Once submitted papers had been reviewed and accepted, they were ready for publication, i.e., taking a typescript manuscript to a printed format. It was time for me to learn copyediting and stylistic guidelines for articles and notes, and to learn proofreader's marks and other marks used in preparing copy for typesetting. Bill was an excellent teacher. In 1976, the text of *Sida* was done in hot type, a process, introduced nearly a century earlier, around 1886, that used molten lead. Type was set with a linotype machine and keystroked line by line, hence the name linotype, which produces a solid "line of type." From the blocks of type that resulted, a set of "galley proofs" was made, which were checked by a proofreader at the printer, as well as by journal editors and the authors, to make sure the type on the page was accurate. The typesetters, or compositors, set the text according to the copyedited and marked-up copy given to them. If there was a mistake anywhere in a line of type, the entire line had to be reset. Everyone needed to be careful, because corrections were costly, and if an error was the author's, he or she paid extra for the corrections. Hence, authors were careful to make sure that a correction affected as few lines of text as possible. Galley proofs were printed on newsprint-like paper, one column wide, from the blocks of set type; a column in a proof could be 24 inches long. Journal pages were mocked up using cut-out sections of the galley proof to create a dummy layout for the paginator at the print shop. There the long, multipage blocks of lead type were arranged according to the dummy. Bill showed me how to make a dummy using three critical elements: 1) a pica ruler (a pica is a measurement used in printing and is equal to 1/6 of an inch), 2) scissors, and 3) rubber cement. I watched Bill carefully measure, mark, and cut long strips of the galley proof into the exact journal page length of 41 picas and paste the "pages" to letter-size paper with Elmer's rubber cement. I got pretty good and almost as fast as Bill at making a mockup from galleys. Once the journal issue had been completely typeset, the errors corrected, and the illustrations properly inserted in the appropriate place, the issue was laid out page by page in printer spreads and printed on a letterpress at the SMU print shop.

Titles  $\frac{26}{14}$  Cora LFC  
 Author, 8R LFC  
 Address 8R italic  
 Text  $\frac{26}{11}$  on 11 slug  
 Footnotes 8 Cora solid  
 References " " "  
 Single space (Isely page 4 (3)): 8R on 9 slug  
 Boldface *mmmm*  
 Special letters  
 German ü (with Umlaut) - if not available, plain  
 ue may be used instead  
 French and Spanish accents é è ò ó

## SIDA

Titles  $\frac{26}{14}$  Cora LFC  
 Author 8R LFC  
 Address 8R italic  
 Text  $\frac{26}{11}$  on 11 slug  
 Footnotes 8 Cora solid  
 References 8 Cora solid  
 Single space 8R on 9 slug  
 [Isely 'S, & (3)]  
 Boldface *mmmm*  
 Special letters:

German ü (with Umlaut) - alternate use ue

Mark all references as follows:

LANJOUW, J. 1966...  
 [for plant taxonomy...]

Volume 5(1) follows this pattern; 4(3) is not consistent

Mahler handwriting, ca. 1975–1976, showing the copyediting and stylistic guidelines for *Sida*, Contributions to Botany. SMU Herbarium, Dallas, Texas.

I soon became fascinated with this printing world that wasn't too far removed from the form as invented by Johannes Gutenberg in the middle of the 15th century. And to make that moveable type connection even stronger, all I had to do was select a 17th-century herbal, Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum* (1753), or an early issue of *Curtis Botanical Magazine* (1787) from the shelves of Shinners' library and examine or feel the letterpress print on the pages. There is hardly anything quite like the feel of letterpress printing, which was the norm until the mid-20th century, when offset printing was developed.

My herbarium duties were first and foremost, but at every opportunity I assisted Bill with the journal. In 1977, after one year of working with Bill on the journal, he appointed me as assistant editor; I was made full editor in 1982, but still with herbarium duties. In 1987, Bill and I cofounded the monographic book series, *Sida, Botanical Miscellany*. Through it all, I received inspiration and guidance from my colleague and friend, William F. Mahler. He was the light unto my path toward becoming even a semblance of an editor.

### Early 1980s (The Struggle for Existence)

With the 1980s came social, economic, and broad change at SMU. Personal computers were introduced but, more significantly, an economic change came, with the housing market crash, the savings-and-loan crisis, and NCAA's "death penalty," canceling SMU's 1987 football season. With all of this happening, there were serious budget problems and space issues all over campus. As a result, the herbarium and library came under a watchful administrative eye. All the while, Bill and I promoted the herbarium and library as an important resource to the SMU community, to Dallas, and to the scientific community at large. We had consistent visitors and users of the herbarium and library from on campus and off. I regularly processed loans of herbarium specimens to researchers, assisted with interlibrary loans, and regularly edited manuscript submissions and published *Sida*. The journal was an international journal of systematic botany and was being distributed internationally. Bill and I struggled with annual budget cuts by the SMU administration, and this included my receiving an annual dismissal letter every year for four or five years straight. SMU was looking at a variety of alternatives for closing the herbarium and library to save money and gain space. Bill was an unflagging optimist and resourceful, and he always found a way to keep me on the job and to keep the SMU Herbarium open for business. To support the annual budget, we took on botanical consulting jobs together, we wrote funding proposals, and took the herbarium on the road, if you will, to generate awareness and support. Those were the days we started recording in detail every phone call, every visitor, and every request on and off campus to provide at least some tangible justification for keeping the herbarium and botany library open and functioning. Bill kept the closure of the

herbarium at bay for a few years through contract work, but still that didn't seem to be enough, and by the mid-1980s, budgets were even tighter and space on campus was at a premium. All the efforts to support the herbarium and library ultimately failed, or at least they weren't seen as enough, and SMU started again to seriously consider alternatives for the herbarium and library. Ultimately, SMU placed its herbarium and library on permanent loan first to the Dallas Civic Garden Center and finally to a group of citizens in Fort Worth who had the vision and determination to set up a nonprofit called the Botanical Research Institute of Texas that would accept and care for the Shinners collections.

Thank goodness for failures. Garrison Keillor said to the Harvard chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, "... it is time for you to think about the benefits of failure. Failure is essential, a form of mortality. Without failure, we have a poor sense of reality. In a nutshell,



William F. Mahler, 31 March 2012, at the new BRIT facility, Fort Worth, Texas. Mahler in front. Back from left to right: Lorene Mahler, Andrea McFadden, and Barney Lipscomb.

my advice is Go, and have a crisis,” as if to say, one day that will stave off a crisis of greater magnitude. Garrison was right. Those 1980s crises at SMU somehow, some way, prepared Bill and me for reality, and ultimately, with assistance from Bill’s student Andrea McFadden, to establish BRIT in 1987 as a free-standing botanical research institution charged with the care and maintenance of the Shinners collections. Through all the ups and downs, Bill was always there to remind me and Andrea that better days were ahead. And they were, thanks to a lot of people and the benefits of failure!

### 1987–1992 (Brighter Days)

The first 17 years of my botanical career with Bill Mahler at SMU are a source of enduring memories, priceless photos, and roller-coaster rides. I was 25 years of age when I started work

at SMU, and I was so impressionable in those early years; Bill’s presence was such a positive influence. I fondly remember his personal confidence, persistence, compassion, integrity, and loyalty, all of which touched and influenced my life. I am a better botanist, colleague, editor, and individual for having known and worked with Bill from 1975 to 1987 and even beyond. When BRIT was formed in 1987, Bill retired from SMU. Thus 1987 was a new beginning, and I had the benefit and joy to work another five years with a dear friend and colleague.

After a happenstance meeting in June 1987, with an international real estate broker (Theodore McAlister) and a client of his who had a large tract of Costa Rican timber to sell, the benefits of failure began to truly materialize. At this time, the SMU herbarium and its library had been placed on permanent loan to the Dallas Civic Garden Center, but the arrangement wasn’t working out. After that early June meeting with Mr. McAlister, the herbarium and library soon became the basis of the newly formed Botanical Research Institute of Texas. BRIT was established as nonprofit corporation in Texas on October 2, 1987. With a staff of three people and a board of trustees, BRIT was on its way. Bill was director, I was curator/librarian/editor, and Andrea McFadden was executive director. BRIT had a presence in Fort Worth, but the herbarium, library and staff were still housed in the basement of the SMU science library. The search began for a new home in Fort Worth and, through the support of its board, BRIT moved into a turn-of-the-century restored warehouse near downtown. The basis of BRIT at this time was the Lloyd Shinners Collections in Systematic Botany and *Sida*, of which Bill was still publisher and owner. Before the move to Fort Worth, the first two years of BRIT’s existence (1987–1989) were formative and trying times for all of the staff and the new BRIT board. There were successes and failures, but surely we would not face another? Our destiny was truly in our own hands. It is hard to see the benefits of failure when you are experiencing crises. Bill Mahler always saw the glass as half full and never let anything really get him down. At one point in the early life of BRIT, the payroll could not be met, and yes, none other than Bill, lent money to the fledgling institution so work could continue. Years later Bill was repaid. He always believed there were brighter days ahead, and it was so, and Bill got to enjoy and see the future of BRIT in its new building, which opened in 2011. In February 1993, Dr. Sy Sohmer assumed directorship of BRIT and Bill became director *emeritus*. Bill and Lorene retired to his hometown, Iowa Park. Iowa Park was on the route I took to visit my family in Oklahoma, and that meant an occasional visit with Bill there.

My day-to-day interaction with Bill ceased with his second retirement, in 1992. Aside from my visits with Bill in Iowa Park, I got to see him regularly in Fort Worth at BRIT events. In 1995, BRIT began an annual fundraising banquet that came to be called the Annual Award of Excellence in Conservation, and from 1995



William F. Mahler, 31 March 2012, at the new BRIT facility, Fort Worth, Texas. Mahler in front. Back from left to right: Barney Lipscomb, Lorene Mahler, Andrea McFadden, Edward P. Bass, and Lindsay Holland.



William F. Mahler, 1993. Portrait by Dennis Farris with setting at BRIT, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, Texas. Portrait hangs in the new BRIT Research Library, 1700 University Dr., Fort Worth, Texas.



Portraits of William F. Mahler (left) and Lloyd H. Shinnars (right) in the BRIT Research Library, 1700 University Dr., Fort Worth, Texas.

every supporter. There was excitement all around. The new green building was more than anyone had dreamed, more than anyone could have envisioned on October 2, 1987, the day it was established as a nonprofit. Since then, almost 27 years ago, it was a dream of the early founders, supporters, board members, and staff that one day the BRIT collections would move to the dynamic Fort Worth Cultural District. For all of us, but especially for Bill and his family, May 15, 2011, will be a day to remember. He was proud of BRIT, and everyone was proud of Bill and his perseverance.

The last day Bill visited BRIT was March 31, 2012, with his family by his side. Bill was still of sound mind and spirit but needed a little help getting around. It was a very special day that will live forever with him, his family, and BRIT friends. It was a reunion of the two early board members Lindsay Holland (from Midland), the first president of BRIT, and Ed Bass (from Fort Worth), vice president of BRIT, Andrea McFadden (from Seattle), BRIT's first executive director, and me (curator/editor/librarian). It was a homecoming that started with a wonderful lunch in a new boardroom and concluded after two hours of touring and talking about the

through 2009 Bill and his wife were guests at the gala. He and Lorene purchased tickets and often brought friends to Fort Worth to join them; Bill and his wife were always recognized at the event. The years of hard work, along with the trials and tribulations that came with keeping BRIT alive and going forward, were truly recognized. Over the years, Bill slowed down, and, in 2010 he was unable to make the trip. I'll never forget attending the 2010 banquet and not seeing Bill and his wife there. I took home with me one of the beautiful floral table arrangements and made a visit the very next day to Iowa Park. I proudly gave Lorene the floral arrangement and a copy of the program, and enjoyed my visit with them. The 2009 Annual Award of Excellence in Conservation may have been Bill's last formal BRIT function, but Bill was destined to make two more ever-important trips to BRIT from his Iowa Park home before his passing on July 2, 2013.

#### 2011 (A Dream Fulfilled)

Even before BRIT moved to Fort Worth in 1991, Dr. Mahler and the entire BRIT board was looking to the future beyond its newly leased space near downtown Fort Worth. When Dr. Sohmer arrived as director in 1993 he began to set his vision on moving BRIT into newer facilities. Even the BRIT board realized that a new and permanent space was essential to BRIT's mission. In short, with lots of planning, a new location was selected in the Fort Worth Cultural District adjacent to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. And finally, after years of planning and design, a new LEED Platinum Certified building was built, which opened to the public in 2011.

Attending the ever-memorable grand opening of BRIT's new facility in 2011 was a crowning moment for Bill, his family, the BRIT board and staff, and every



new BRIT. We shared stories about BRIT's early years at SMU and its first home in Fort Worth (Tindall Warehouse, a restored turn-of-the-century building), where it was located from 1993 until 2011).

My memory of Bill lives on, and I'll be forever grateful for what he gave me. His memory at BRIT is reflected in more ways than one. His portrait hangs in the BRIT library adjacent to that of Lloyd Shinnery, whose collections are the heart and soul of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. It almost never fails that when I walk into the BRIT library, I look over at Bill and Lloyd and smile, and in my heart, I say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants. Thank you."

—Barney L. Lipscomb, Fort Worth